

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
March 2, 2001

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, March 2, 2001, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Mary Beth Bonaventura; W. Timothy Crowley; Steve David; Mary R. Harper; Lynn Murray; James W. Payne; Daniel L. Pflum; Julian L. Ridlen; Magistrate R. Paulette Stagg; Frank Sullivan; Viola J. Taliaferro; and Stephen M. Sims, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Anne Jordan and Jane Seigel provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Ms. Pam Cline, DOC; Diane Maynes, DOC; Mr. James Hmurovich, FSSA; Paul Downing, Jeanne Alverson and Jenny Steinkamp, DOC were also present.
4. Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on February 2, 2001 were approved.
5. Health care. Ms. Seigel reported a recent inquiry concerning the types of healthcare provided or ordered by or through the judicial system. The committee members discussed various examples for her information.
6. FSSA.
  - a. Mr. Hmurovich apologized for not attending the February meeting of the committee. He reported the distribution of language from the January meeting to all local OFC directors. His survey based on this language indicated an \$8.5 million dollar increase in monies needed for the Family and Children's (FCF) fund statewide. He called the 32 counties with these increases and found some of these costs should be paid by the FCF, some should be paid by the county general fund, and some counties reported concerns with judicial dispositional practices that might be addressed by early intervention. Since these costs were speculative, he alone had all legislation dealing with payment for secure detention, including HB 2032 and the portion of HB 1003 containing the committee's language removed from consideration by the legislature. In order to address some of these concerns, he urged establishment of a contact point between probation and OFC to discuss proper services for children, like "family preservation" in some counties.
  - b. The committee members requested Mr. Hmurovich to provide the committee the following: (1) How many, who, and the duties of family preservation personnel; (2) Financial breakdown of the Family and Children's Fund for delinquents and CHINS on a county by county basis; and (3) a list of secure facilities that OFC will pay for delinquents or CHINS from the FCF. Mr. Hmurovich agreed to attend the next meeting of the committee on May 4 to develop a joint policy direction in this area.
  - c. Ms. Pam Cline agreed to provide a list to the committee of aftercare and contract beds in use by the Juvenile Services Division at DOC.

7. DOC. Mr. Paul Downing reported that Washington and Harrison counties recently settled lawsuits concerning improperly conducted strip searches and Floyd Co. is heading into federal court. He said Mr. Ray Sabatini recently presented information and procedures for use by juvenile detention centers. Mr. Downing distributed materials to the committee concerning strip searches.
8. JTAC. Justice Sullivan reported the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) received over \$7 million dollars in the budget bill passed by the House. The committee is working on a set of case management standards that would permit the sharing of information.
9. CIP report. Justice Sullivan reported the last round of grants are done; \$360,000 will be available over the next two years. Some monies will be used to replicate existing projects in Allen, Marion and Lake counties, and other monies for new projects. The committee discussed use of grant monies for coordination of counties with the juvenile QUEST computer system.
10. Paternity affidavit. Magistrate Stagg distributed material concerning the use of the paternity affidavit in Indiana. She expressed concern when a putative father signs a paternity affidavit in the hospital when the mother is married. She agreed to draft a letter to the Indiana Attorney General requesting a fresh look at the material prepared by them for use by hospitals in connection with the affidavit.
11. Record checks for CASA's. Judge Pflum reported that local law enforcement was no longer able to conduct criminal record checks on CASA volunteers before they begin working for the court upon advice of the State Police. Judge Crowley stated his county's IDACS machine no longer can be used for OFC criminal history checks of foster parents. Mr. Bercovitz agreed to follow up with Ms. Nancy Gettinger and the State Police on this issue.
12. CHINS/Dissolution support conflict. Ms. Anne Jordan reported some courts are concerned about the coordination of support for one child in a CHINS case while a support order for the same child exists in the dissolution court. Committee members explained they coordinated their orders with the dissolution court on a case-by-case basis.
13. Mexican Consular Affairs Handbook. Judge Payne distributed the Mexican Consular Affairs Handbook, which outlines procedures for handling Mexican juveniles.
14. Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Mr. Bercovitz announced the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is developing a judicial handbook for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The committee agreed to review a draft.
15. Juvenile Court Conference. Mr. Bercovitz reported the conference would be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Columbus. Dr. Ruby Payne will speak from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday, June 21 on cultural aspects of poverty. The committee members discussed issues for nondetention center counties: (1) finding space; (2) transportation and holding juvenile for transportation; (3) different programs and philosophies of various detention centers; (4) coordination of communication with probation, the court and the detention center in the area of education and transfer tuition. They discussed break out sessions for detention and nondetention

center counties. They also discussed the difference between large and small counties on issues of dual jurisdiction.

16. Recent legislation. The committee members discussed Senate Bills 97, 204, 247, 368 and 492 and House Bills 1003, 1065, 1138, 1221, 1650, 1829, 1891, 1893, 2031, and 2086.

17. Next meeting dates. The committee agreed to meet again on the following dates: Friday, May 4, 2001, June 1, 2001, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 12, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in conjunction with the judicial conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law